U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,759 Amendment filed December 5, 2005 Reply to OA dated August 5, 2005

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1 (previously presented): A steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care, comprising:

a steam-generating portion;

an electromagnetic valve;

a connecting tube;

a steam-blowing portion, the steam-generating portion sending pressurized steam through the electromagnetic valve and the connecting tube, and forcibly blowing the steam out of the steam-blowing portion, the electromagnetic valve being disposed between the tube and the steam-generating portion, the tube being flexible and being disposed between the electromagnetic valve and the steam-blowing portion;

a heating steam circulation passage, disposed in the electromagnetic valve, conveying the steam from the steam-generating portion through the electromagnetic valve and then to a return pipe, preliminarily heating an inside of the electromagnetic valve with the steam from the steam-generating portion when the electromagnetic valve is in a closed state; and

an electric heater, disposed in the steam-blowing portion, to heat a vaporization space in the steam-blowing portion, the electric heater changing water drops to steam in the vaporization space.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,759 Amendment filed December 5, 2005 Reply to OA dated August 5, 2005

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Claim 2 (previously presented): The steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care as set forth in claim 1, wherein the vaporization space is disposed on a steam passage in the blowing portion, and the electric heater is disposed near the vaporization space.

Claim 3 (original): The steam-supplying apparatus for hairdressing and beauty care as set forth in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the steam-generating portion has a boiler to generate the steam, and a pressure-reducing valve is disposed on a steam passage between the boiler and the electromagnetic valve.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A steam-supplying apparatus, comprising:

a steam-generating portion generating steam;

an electromagnetic valve receiving the steam from the steam-generating portion, the electromagnetic valve <u>having a valve main body and</u> forming a heating steam circulation passage inside the electromagnetic valve to heat the inside of the electromagnetic valve with the steam from the steam-generating portion when the electromagnetic valve is in a closed state;

a tube receiving the steam from the electromagnetic valve when the electromagnetic valve is in an open state, the tube being flexible;

is in both the closed and open state, the return pipe being distinguishable from the tube;

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,759 Amendment filed December 5, 2005 Reply to OA dated August 5, 2005

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a steam-blowing portion receiving the steam from the tube; and

an electric heater being disposed in the steam-blowing portion to heat a vaporization space of a steam passage in the steam-blowing portion, the electric heater changing water drops to steam in the vaporization space, the steam-blowing portion outputting steam and not water drops.

wherein, when the electromagnetic valve is in the closed state, steam circulates from the steam-generating portion through the heating steam circulation passage and around the valve main body and to the return pipe.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The steam-supplying apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a return pipe in communication with the heating steam circulation passage, with some of the steam from the steam-generating portion passing through the heating steam circulation passage and the return pipe when the electromagnetic valve is in the closed state and when the electromagnetic valve is in an open state.

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